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Letter dated 17 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 June 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Huseyin E. Çelem
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 16 June 1997 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 4 June 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus" (A/51/916-S/1997/435).

I wish to state categorically that the claims put forward in the said letter are totally false and malicious, as such overflights did not occur. These allegations appear to be part of a general campaign of disinformation being carried out by the Greek Cypriot side in order to create an unfavourable image of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot side, particularly on the eve of the direct talks to be held between the two leaders in early July.

Notwithstanding the above, I wish to reiterate that, as I have repeatedly stated in my previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 2 May 1997 (A/51/888-S/1997/350), the subject of flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a matter which is totally within the competence and jurisdiction of the appropriate authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and the Greek Cypriot side has no say in it whatsoever.

It is regrettable that the Greek Cypriot side, obviously not content with merely distorting events for propaganda purposes, should also be fabricating them. While this kind of behaviour may pay short-term dividends to the Greek Cypriot side, it clearly serves no other purpose than further embittering the relations between the two communities and harming prospects for a future settlement.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus